

Creel Survey

May 2, 2011

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – Anglers are catching spring chinook in the lower river and at the barrier dam while steelhead are primarily being caught at the trout hatchery.

Last week, Tacoma Power recovered 985 winter-run steelhead, seven summer-run steelhead, 19 spring Chinook adults and eight jacks during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 50 winter-run steelhead and one spring Chinook salmon into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam, and they released five winter-run steelhead into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 10,500 cubic feet per second on Monday, May 2. Water visibility is seven feet.

Kalama River – Anglers near the mouth are catching some spring chinook while some winter and summer run steelhead are being caught upriver. No spring chinook have returned to Kalama Falls Hatchery through May 2nd though few if any fish would be expected at this time.

Lewis River – Effort continues to be light. Some spring chinook reported caught at the mouth.

As of today (May 2nd), a total of 21 adult spring chinook have returned to the Merwin Dam trap. Based upon early, average, and late run timing, 14, 154, or 497 fish would have expected to return by this time, respectively.

Washougal River – Boat anglers are catching some summer run steelhead. Slower for bank anglers.

Wind River – Effort and catch is rapidly increasing. About 120 boats counted here yesterday morning. Some days creel checks have been over a fish per boat average.

Five spring chinook have been passed at the Shipherd Falls through April 27.

Drano Lake – Effort and catch is also increasing here. Yesterday morning there were about 100 boats. Daily creel checks have been over a fish per boat average at times.

White Salmon River – Light effort and no catch reported.

Klickitat River – A few summer run steelhead and spring chinook reported caught.

Mainstem Columbia from Bonneville Dam to the WA/OR state line – An estimated 453 adult Chinook kept and 165 released from over 3,000 angler trips for the season that ended May 1. Most of the catch occurred this last week in The Dalles Pool.

Ringold area – From Paul Hoffarth, WDFW District 4 Fish Biologist in Pasco WA: The "bank only" sport fishery for spring chinook got off to a slow start. May 1 was opening day with a peak angler count of 4. Last year the peak count was over 60 anglers. WDFW staff interviewed four anglers fishing for salmon and none were reported caught. One angler did report catching and releasing 5 hatchery steelhead. No chinook have entered the Ringold Hatchery trap to date.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – Some legals are being caught in the Vancouver area. The 98 boats and 41 bank anglers found during the Saturday April 30 effort flight count was nearly identical to the previous weekend.

The Dalles Pool – Slow for legal size fish.

John Day Pool – 3 boats (8 anglers) fishing for sturgeon released 3 fish (Catch & Release Only!)

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers averaged just under 3 walleye kept and 6 bass kept/released per rod. Bank anglers are catching some bass.

John Day Pool – 3 boats (6 anglers) fishing for walleye had 19 fish. 3 boats (7 anglers) fishing for bass had 3 bass and a walleye.

Trout

See creel checks in the tributary sport file.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:														
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:	
Bonneville ¹	1040	587								1,627	81.4%	Mar. 31	2,000	
The Dalles ²	65	6	16							87	29.0%	Mar. 31	300	
John Day	187	90	163							440	88.0%	Mar. 31	500	
Current month sampled sturgeon kept:														
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep					
Bonneville ¹	145	71								216		May 1		
The Dalles ²	11	1	5	5						22		May 1		
John Day	37	10	29	15						91		May 1		
¹ Bonneville Pool closed to sturgeon retention Feb 19.														
² John Day Pool closed to sturgeon retention April 10.														
Harvest estimates are updated monthly. All in-season estimates are preliminary. Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.														

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

April 25 - May 1, 2011

The following table is a summary of numbers of fish observed by samplers.

Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.

Sturgeon														
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool						18							198	216
The Dalles Pool	15	2				8	3	10	31				14	22
John Day Pool						20							71	91
Total	15	2				46	3	10	31				283	329
Salmonids														
	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week Cum
Bonneville Pool	54		1	5		5							2	7
Chinook			1	5		5								5
Coho														
Steelhead													2	2
The Dalles Pool	245		15	37		54	14	33		14	8		16	70
Chinook			15	37		44				13	8		8	52
Coho														
Steelhead						10				1			8	18
John Day Pool	132		3	10		20	16	36			1		9	29
Chinook			3	10		13					1		1	14
Coho														
Steelhead						7							8	15
Walleye														
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2011 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool													5	5
The Dalles Pool						3	12	35		101			699	702
John Day Pool													179	179
Bass														
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2011 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool	1	2				6	3	5	29	1			1	7
John Day Pool													2	2

¹ Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

		Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (% of 6-week average)	none	none	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
The Dalles	Effort (% of 6-week average)	66%	241%	81%	157%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.32	0.27	2.89	5.33
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	0.16	2.89	0.17
John Day	Effort (% of 6-week average)	none	none	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none

Area	Bank <u>Anglers</u>	Chinook Kept		Chinook Rel.		Steelhead		<u>Other</u>	Boat <u>Anglers</u>	Chinook Kept		Chinook Rel.		Steelhead		<u>Other</u>
		<u>Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>			<u>Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	
Cowlitz River	280	16	9	1	0	2	1	1 legal stg.	43	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Kalama River	33	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lewis River mainstem	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Fork	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Washougal River	72	CLOSED	CLOSED	0	0	0	4	0	54	CLOSED	CLOSED	0	0	7	10	0
Wind River mouth	15	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	255	88	0	1	0	0	0	0
Drano Lake	102	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	260	65	0	0	0	0	0	0
White Salmon River	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0								
Klickitat River	14	0	0	0	0	0	1	0								

Month/Week 4/25-30	Salmonid			Chinook			Steelhead						Chinook			Steelhead		
	<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Bank Anglers</u>	<u>Kept Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Released Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u># Boats</u>	<u>Boat Anglers</u>	<u>Kept Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Released Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Other</u>
Bonneville	1	CLOSED								CLOSED	CLOSED							
Camas/Washougal	2	CLOSED								CLOSED	CLOSED							
	3	CLOSED								CLOSED	CLOSED							
Vancouver	4	CLOSED								CLOSED	CLOSED							
Woodland	5	CLOSED								CLOSED	CLOSED							
Kalama	6	CLOSED								CLOSED	CLOSED							
Cowlitz	7	CLOSED								CLOSED	CLOSED							
Longview	8	CLOSED								CLOSED	CLOSED							
Cathlamet	9	CLOSED								CLOSED	CLOSED							
private boats/bank charter	10	CLOSED								CLOSED	CLOSED							
	10	CLOSED								CLOSED	CLOSED							
Total			0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Sturgeon											
	<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Bank Anglers</u>	<u>Sublegals Rel.</u>	<u>Legals Rel.</u>	<u>Oversize Rel.</u>	<u>Legals Kept</u>	<u># Boats</u>	<u>Boat Anglers</u>	<u>Sublegals Rel.</u>	<u>Legals Rel.</u>	<u>Oversize Rel.</u>	<u>Legals Kept</u>
Bonneville	1	5	0	0	0	0						
Camas/Washougal	2	7	3	0	0	0						
	3	3	1	0	0	0						
Vancouver	4	5	0	0	0	0	2	6	8	0	0	1
Woodland	5											
Kalama	6											
Cowlitz	7											
Longview	8											
Cathlamet	9											
charter	10											
Cathlamet	10											
Total		20	4	0	0	0	2	6	8	0	0	1

	Walleye							
	<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Bank Anglers</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u># Boats</u>	<u>Boat Anglers</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>
Bonneville	1							
Camas/Washougal	2							
	3							
Vancouver	4							
Woodland	5							
Kalama	6							
Cowlitz	7							
Longview	8							
Cathlamet	9							
Chinook/Elochoman	10							
Total		0	0	0	0	0	0	0

COWLITZ COUNTY

Horseshoe Lake

12 anglers with 7 anglers kept and 2 rainbows released. Water 58F.

Kress Lake

38 anglers with 26 rainbows kept, 21 rainbows released and 2 brown trout released. Water 60F.

Merwin Reservoir

19 anglers with 60 kokanee kept, 11 kokanee released and 1 rainbow released. Water 49F. 150 boat trailers. Longer to catch limits, not a lot of limits caught.

Yale Reservoir

2 anglers with 1 kokanee released. 17 boat trailers.

Silver Lake

11 anglers with 1 yellow perch (7.5 $\frac{1}{2}$). Water 60F.

CLARK COUNTY

Klineline Pond

32 anglers with 21 rainbows kept.

LEWIS COUNTY

Riffe Lake

11 anglers with 10 coho (12 $\frac{3}{4}$ 13 $\frac{3}{4}$).

Swofford Pond

20 anglers with 23 rainbows kept, 1 channel catfish kept (23.5 $\frac{1}{2}$), 3 bass released.

Mayfield Reservoir

2 anglers with no fish kept/released. 8 trailers.

Mineral Lake

54 anglers with 98 rainbows kept and 132 rainbows released. Water 49F. Largest fish measured 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ 25 $\frac{3}{4}$ 22 $\frac{3}{4}$